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hence a suture in the cranium is equivalent to the epiphysis between the shaft and head of any one of the long bones.\* In the present example, Dr. Morton showed that owing to the total absence of the sagittal suture, the lateral growth of the cranium has ceased at an early period of life; the presence of the lamdoidal suture has permitted of posterior elongation, and the squamous sutures being entirely open, the upward growth, corresponding to the lines of these sutures, is remarkably developed.

Dr. Morton expressed his acknowledgments to the Baron Von Gerolt, Prussian Minister at Washington, for the ancient Mexican cranium deposited this evening. It was exhumed from the cemetery of San Juan de Tlatilolco, near the city of Mexico, in which were buried great numbers of the Mexicans who were slain in defence of their city against the Spaniards, during the invasion of Cortez.

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On motion of Prof. Johnson,—Resolved, That a copy of the 8th vol. of the Journal of the Academy, and a copy of vol. 1st of the Proceedings, and of vol. 2d, as far as published, be presented to the “Museum d’Histoire Naturelle.”

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*Stated Meeting, May 20th, 1845.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

A letter was read from Dr. Edward Hallowell, communicating some facts observed by him respecting the young of the Opossum, a number of which, with the female, had been recently captured in his neighbourhood. The letter also referred to the practice among the gallinaceous birds of devouring serpents, several interesting instances of which were mentioned.

Prof. Johnson read a portion of the report of his analysis of the specimens of Nile alluvium received from Prof. Lepsius

\*Proceedings, Vol. I, August, 1841.

and referred to him by the Academy for that purpose. A part of the apparatus which he employed in conducting the analysis was exhibited, and the mode of operating with it fully explained.

A letter was read from Mr. Benjamin Silliman, Jr., Secretary of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists, recently convened at New Haven, Conn., dated Yale College Cabinet, May 6th, 1845, transmitting a copy in manuscript of a Report made by a Committee of the Association, appointed for the purpose "of taking into consideration the adoption of the rules of the British Association regarding the subject of Zoological and Botanical Nomenclature, with such changes as may be deemed expedient."

The design of the Association in transmitting a copy of this Report being, to ascertain the views of the Academy on the subject referred to, in connexion with those of other scientific bodies in the United States, the documents were on motion referred to a committee, as follows: Mr. Phillips, Dr. Bridges and Dr. Morton.

A letter was read from Mr. J. D. Dana, Chairman of the committee of the Association, dated New Haven, May 6th, 1845, in relation to the same subject.

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On motion of Prof. Johnson: Resolved, That the Library Committee be directed to inquire what measures can be adopted to place the Academy in possession of a copy of the highly valuable work of Mr. Audubon on the quadrupeds of the United States, now in course of publication.

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*Meeting for Business, May 27, 1845.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

The committee to whom was referred a communication from Mr. Edward Harris, read April 1st, 1845, on the Geology of the Upper Missouri, reported in favor of publication.